REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

2014/2015

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO

Canada Council for the Arts

Conseil des arts du Canada

CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
2014-15 REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO acts as a forum for governments and civil society that encourages Canadian organizations and individuals to participate in UNESCO's work in the fields of education, the natural, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information. The Commission also consults civil society and various levels of government to prepare Canada's contribution to UNESCO and to implement UNESCO programs and activities in Canada.

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des arts du Canada

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is part of the Canada Council for the Arts. The Council created the Commission in 1957 pursuant to the *Canada Council for the Arts Act* and an Order in Council (1957-831).

The Canada Council provides a Secretariat for the Commission and its operating budget. Financial information on the Commission can be found in the Canada Council Annual Report (canadacouncil.ca).

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MESSAGE FROM

SIMON BRAULT,

DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

In the past year three remarkable women joined the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO): Louise Filiatrault as Secretary-General, Christina Cameron as President, and Danika Littlechild, as Vice-President. Ms. Littlechild is also the first Aboriginal person to be appointed to the CCUNESCO Executive Committee. These appointees' in depth knowledge of heritage, cultural, Aboriginal and international issues make them ideal choices for the positions they now hold, and I am extremely pleased to see such a talented team at the Commission's helm.

The Canada Council applauds the work of the Commission in its longstanding role encouraging Canadians to work actively on behalf of sustainable human development. Synergy between the Commission's efforts and our own has never been more valuable as we work to revitalize the Council's mandate in a way that will give us a better understanding of demographic, technological, economic and social changes, and enable us to anticipate and respond to such changes as appropriately and efficiently as possible. Whether at the local, national or international level, our work together can help ensure that important principles such as openness, democracy, inclusion, equity, freedom of expression, maximization of knowledge and innovation, and promotion of culture are discussed at the major forums that shape our future. Our concerted efforts can foster a democracy that draws strength from its cultural diversity and vibrant Aboriginal presence.

Together with the Council's teams, the arts community and the Commission's various networks, I am pleased to be contributing to a peaceful and equitable future in which the arts and culture take pride of place for all Canadians.

Simon Brault, O.C., O.Q.
Director and Chief Executive Officer

MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

Dear members and friends of the Commission,

A year has passed since I accepted to lead the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. It has been a stimulating and challenging year. Since our successful last Annual General Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, Danika Billie Littlechild, our new Vice-President, and Executive Committee newly elected members, Lenore Swystun, Claude Allard and Jack Lohman have contributed their talent and commitment to the work of the Commission. In September, Louise Filiatrault began her work as our new Secretary-General, bringing a new vision for the Commission and a desire to make a difference by promoting UNESCO's values and programs.

Fulfilling the objectives of our new Strategic Plan is important in a time of social transformation. This past year has also unfortunately been marked by the actions of some who disagree with UNESCO's mandate in Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication. They have perpetrated violent acts against others and destroyed precious examples of the world's tangible and intangible heritage. In such a context, the Commission needs to intensify its efforts for the rapprochement of all cultures by creating more space for dialogue and by giving voice to those who have been silenced. The current global context means that the role of UNESCO is more pertinent than ever. New commitments are needed to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men and women in order to create a more equitable and sustainable world. The Commission counts on each of you to support the principles promoted by UNESCO and to contribute your own vision and experience to the discussion.

Dr. Christina Cameron
President, Canadian Commission for UNESCO

MESSAGE FROM THE

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the Canadian Commission for UNESCO's 2014-15 Report on Activities. It is encouraging to see that when faced with new societal challenges, our members' commitment strengthens and rallies the Commission's collective ability to promote a better living environment so that we can work toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

With the support of an experienced Executive Committee, I have pursued two major objectives since my term began in September 2014. The first was to continue implementing the Commission's 2014-2021 Strategic Plan launched in June 2014. Topping the list are the strategic actions required to strengthen the Commission's partnerships and in-house capacity, both of which are important in leveraging the Commission's work. The second objective is to have the Commission's Secretariat collaborate more closely with the Canada Council for the Arts, within whose jurisdiction we operate. Doing so undoubtedly increases the Canada Council's and the Commission's impact on culture generally, as well as specifically on Aboriginal communities in education, arts and learning in Canada and abroad.

The President and I represented the Commission at the 195th and 196th sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris. UNESCO plays the lead role in determining the objectives and targets for education and culture for the post-2015 sustainable development objectives. The questions addressed by the Executive Board included growing radicalization, freedom of expression (particularly in cyberspace), and the safety of journalists. Questions relating to UNESCO's financial position remain a concern because of its broad mandate and the growing needs of Member States. In that context, increased pressure is put on National Commissions to carry out UNESCO's mandate at the national level. In the Executive Council meetings I learned firsthand about the Commission's excellent international reputation. We can rightly take pride in our National Commission, which is considered a leader in terms of youth engagement, sharing best practices, and developing UNESCO networks like the Biosphere Reserves, the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination, and the Associated Schools Project Network.

Based on these accomplishments, we would like to consolidate the Commission's impact in Canada over the coming year and make Canadians more aware of the work accomplished by our members and networks. We need to focus our efforts and make choices to improve our performance. Complex issues like the rising tide of radicalization and the various impacts of climate change require concerted and inclusive action in all of UNESCO's program areas. One of the Commission's major assets in pursuing these efforts is its Sectoral Commissions, whose members include experts and representatives of both non-governmental and governmental agencies in all of UNESCO's mandated fields. I am committed to using the Sectoral Commissions more effectively in the coming years.

In 2014, you confirmed that you were prepared to play an active role in implementing our strategic plan. As the new Canadian Commission for UNESCO Secretary-General, I confirm that I would like to work with you in areas like global citizenship education, promotion of cultural diversity, sustainable development, equity and freedom of expression, combining contributions to all UNESCO mandated areas such as education, culture, sciences, and communication and information.

I am convinced that the Commission's strength resides in the commitment of its members and partners. I hope that this report will inspire your renewed commitment to UNESCO's ideals.

Louise Filiatrault
Secretary-General

Talking Circle at the Tin Wis Resort in Tofino, BC, site of a former residential school

WHAT WE DO

BECOMING GLOBAL CITIZENS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development ended in 2014. One of the major conclusions of the decade is that the survival of humanity depends on our ability to live together and to respect nature. This is only possible with quality education accessible to everyone throughout their lives. It also requires international scientific collaboration to find solutions to new challenges in a world that is undergoing rapid transformation. The global challenges are many: the consequences of climate change, demographic change and growing radicalization, combined with a proliferation of conflicts, require local and regional engagement but with a world view. — Education-for peace through the rapprochement of cultures, in human rights and sustainable development — is more essential than ever.

The commitment of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) to these issues takes many forms. First of all, CCUNESCO draws on the knowledge of Canadian experts at major international conferences to help develop common definitions of these concepts. For example, Canadian experts, including the holders of two UNESCO chairs, one professor and four students from the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, attended the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development — Learning Today for a Sustainable Future (Japan, November 2014). In addition, six Canadian experts and a representative of the CCUNESCO Secretariat attended the Second UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education (Paris, January 28-30, 2015). To prepare for the Conferences the CCUNESCO collaborated with a variety of partners, including the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada; the UNESCO Research Chairs; and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network of Canada.

Discussions at these conferences showed that dealing with contemporary challenges makes societies interdependent. For sustainable development, this interdependence must develop in a context of respect for difference, diversity and nature. The world needs citizens who embrace global citizenship and who acknowledge the interdependence of various populations as well as their relationship with nature.

The conclusions of these major conferences were shared with members of the Sectoral Commissions and served to develop the 2015-2021 strategy for the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network.

Learning how to act at the local and regional level while keeping the global perspective in mind — in other words, learning to become global citizens — cannot be accomplished solely through formal education. We believe that experimentation, dialogue and exchanges of best practices are also effective ways of building solidarity among communities at all levels.

More than half a million Canadians were reached in 2014-2015 through projects that uphold and promote the values and objectives of UNESCO.

In Natural, Social and Human Sciences

CCUNESCO encouraged **20 projects** across Canada reaching up to **266,000 Canadians.**

In Culture, Communication and Information

CCUNESCO encouraged **18 projects** across Canada reaching up to **220,900 Canadians.**

In Education

CCUNESCO encouraged **7 projects** across Canada reaching up to **2,000 education experts, teachers and decision-makers.**

With Youth

CCUNESCO encouraged **7 projects** across Canada reaching up to **35,600 Canadians.**

Number of Canadians reached is an estimate for illustrative purposes only.

POETRY FOR REFUGEES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

To encourage young people to think about refugee rights by using art as a means of expression and social engagement, CCUNESCO partnered with the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to launch a Canada-wide poetry competition called "Refugees and Human Rights." Two hundred young Canadians aged 7 to 12 from three provinces, submitted poems in their mother tongue. A jury consisting of writers Kim Thúy, Michel A. Thérien, Jim Creskey, Miriam Rawson of Pax Ed, Marie-Hélène Larrue of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Furio De Angelis, representative of the High Commission in Canada, and CCUNESCO representatives selected the best submission. At the awards ceremony held at Ottawa City Hall, the winners read their poems to the public and dignitary guests. CCUNESCO presented awards to 12 French and English category winners.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

CCUNESCO, in collaboration with five Winnipeg schools that are members of UNESCO's Associated Schools Project Network, is currently developing educational materials to help teachers discuss concepts like tolerance and respect for different cultures with their students. The five schools are: Al Hijra Islamic School, Brock Corydon English/Hebrew Bilingual School, Niji Mahkwa Aboriginal School, John Pritchard School, and St. Emile Catholic School.

CCUNESCO supported the Winnipeg cultural diversity project, which will run for two years. The project will create opportunities for gatherings for Grade 5 and 6 students so that they can learn about and gain an appreciation of other people's cultures and religions.

"Everyone is the same, except that they may have different beliefs or convictions, and that is their right."

Comment from video:
http://youtu.be/M226A6T9nIE

MUNICIPALITIES WORKING TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination's Twenty members of the Canadian Coalition celebrated International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21, 2015) in innovative ways. They raised awareness and engaged communities on the impact of discrimination and racism. In Vancouver, citizens were invited to take selfies of their raised hand and to circulate the images through social media with the hashtag #HandsAgainstRacism. In Sault St. Marie, residents were invited to share with the community one aspect of their culture using the hashtag #saultculture on FaceBook and Twitter. In Nova Scotia, the Municipality of Kings County requested the community's help in creating a work of public art containing the symbol associated with the combat against racism and discrimination. The Municipality of New Glasgow and the UNESCO Race Relations and Anti-Discrimination Committee organized an information session to inform people about the religion and culture of Islam and to broaden their understanding of it.

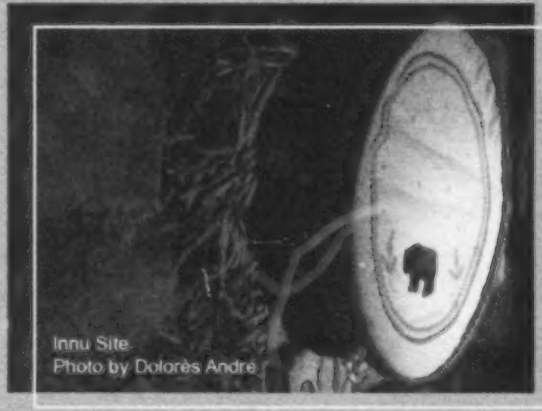
Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination

The City of Vancouver's "Raise your Hands Against Racism Campaign"

CREATION OF A DIRECTORY OF MAJOR INNU SACRED SITES IN NORTHERN QUÉBEC AND LABRADOR

CCUNESCO supported the participation of Innu youth in the efforts of a group of experts to create a directory of major Innu sacred sites in Northern Québec and Labrador. The team consisted of geographers, researchers, spiritual guides, and specialists in Innu language and culture. Youth participation is considered important for the transmission of technical skills and intangible cultural knowledge from one generation to the next. The project also helps to promote the guidelines and best practices for sacred natural sites established by both UNESCO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The initiative is a direct outcome of the international conference "Protecting the Sacred: Recognition of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples for Sustaining Nature and Culture in Northern and Arctic Regions," which was held in Finland from September 11-13, 2013. At this conference, CCUNESCO facilitated an intercultural exchange about culture transmission for the representatives of the Innu of Québec and the Sami of Scandinavia in attendance.

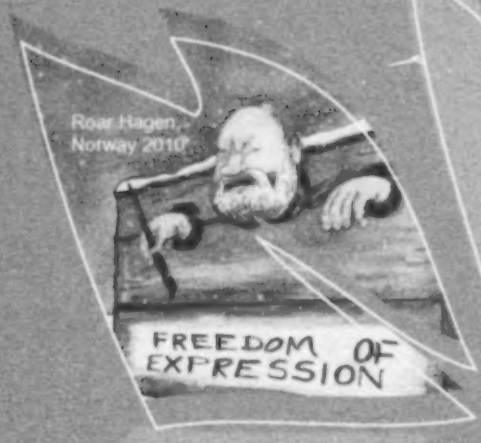


Innu Site.
Photo by Dolorès Andre

PROMOTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND INCLUSION

Freedom of expression and its corollary, freedom of the press, are the very foundation of the development of true democratic societies, based on knowledge and sharing. These are essential elements to the achievement of the overarching priority of fostering peace. The free circulation of ideas is a prerequisite for learning about oneself, others and our universe.

Over the past year, many violent events shook our understanding of our right to freedom of expression. They forced us to question the need to establish limits on discourse in the real and virtual world, where cultures meet, discover each other, and sometimes clash. The issues associated with learning to live better together reveal themselves both online and offline. CCUNESCO believes that intercultural education and dialogue are our best tools for overcoming barriers and enabling individuals and societies to grow. Panel discussions, exhibitions, artistic expression, radio competitions and social media campaigns are only a few of the ways to encourage people to think about and discuss issues surrounding freedom of expression, intercultural dialogue and inclusion.



Roar Hagen,
Norway 2010

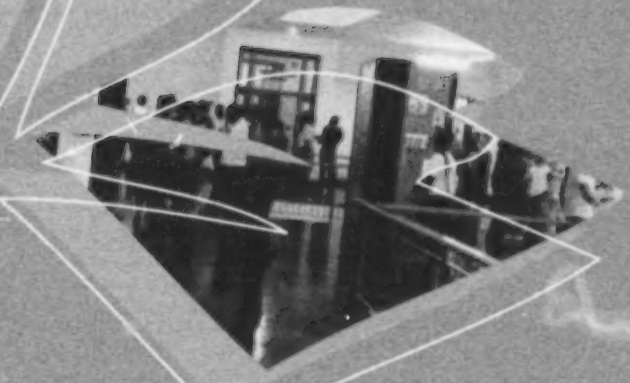


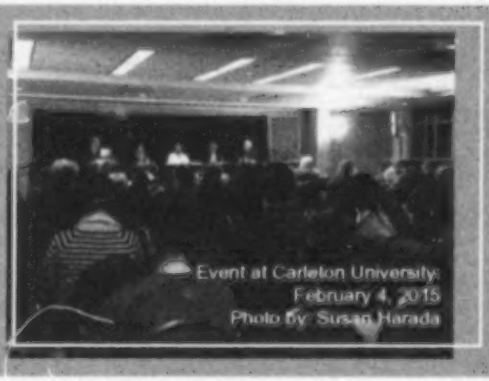
Exhibit Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes,
Zimbabwe, March-April 2015
Credit: Patrice Laquerre

SHOULD LIMITS BE PLACED ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION TO AVOID OFFENDING PEOPLE?

CCUNESCO encouraged dialogue on issues relating to freedom of expression at a panel discussion on the fallout from the tragedy at the satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo. Must we limit the right to freedom of expression to avoid offending people? This question was put to the following panelists: Toby Mendel, Director of the Halifax Centre for Law and Democracy; Guy Badeaux, a cartoonist at the newspaper Le Droit; Karim Karim, a professor at Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communications and Director of the Centre for the Study of Islam; and Catherine Cano, director of news programs at Radio Canada, the French-language CBC. The panel concluded that for some, freedom of expression is genuine only if there are no limits on it, whereas for others, freedom of expression should not mean the right to offend others. The audience was made up of journalism students and professors. The discussion reached a broader public when it was broadcast on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC). The panel discussion was organized by the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom, Carleton University and CCUNESCO.

"Charlie Hebdo: When it comes to free expression, where do we draw the line?"

Carleton University, Ottawa, February 4, 2015



Event at Carleton University, February 4, 2015
Photo by: Susan Harada

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN BROAD STROKES EXHIBITION IN ZIMBABWE

MARCH-APRIL 2015

The Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes international exhibition of editorial cartoons organized by CCUNESCO, was presented by the Canadian Embassy in Zimbabwe. The exhibition[4] aimed to open up dialogue on freedom of expression in a variety of contexts and the role of the media in democratic systems. Over 300 people attended the exhibition in Harare and Bulawayo.

The exhibition showed the winning drawings between 2001 and 2014 from an international editorial cartoon competition organized annually on World Press Freedom Day by the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom, in partnership with CCUNESCO.

Youth and Radio,
February 13, 2015
UNESCO web site

60 SECONDS OF RADIO FOR YOUTH

World Radio Day – *Youth and Radio*, February 13, 2015

CCUNESCO worked with CHOQ.ca on the "60 Seconds of Radio" promotion, which invited young people from various continents to produce 60-second sound clips in English, French and Spanish. A total of 120 sound clips from about a dozen South American, North American and European countries, were submitted. The clips will be posted online at the CHOQ.ca site, and some will be broadcast in rotation on the radio. A compilation will be prepared for community radio stations that request it.

ART FOR THE RAPPROCHEMENT OF CULTURES

CCUNESCO contributed to the rapprochement of cultures and to artistic expression at the UNESCO Colours for the Planet art camp organized by the Andorra National Commission for UNESCO. The camp brought together 30 visual artists from every continent to encourage intercultural skills and promote international collaboration between artists. Working together with the Canada Council for the Arts, CCUNESCO chose Marigold Santos of Montréal to represent Canada. The Commission also supported the participation of Jeffrey Feeger, a visual artist from Papua New Guinea, to ensure that this region could be represented at the art camp.

Art Camp: Colours for the Planet,
Andorra, July 14-24, 2014

Photo of the group Art Camp 2014 and the UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova

Photo: UNESCO Web Site

CONNECTING CANADIANS TO UNESCO

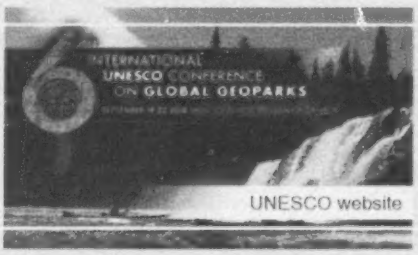
Canadian academics and representatives of non-governmental organizations contribute to the implementation of UNESCO's programs in Canada and abroad. Their participation in important conferences here and elsewhere provide an opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise and to learn from their peers from every continent. CCUNESCO supports the participation of Canadian experts at these forums so that they can share their ideas and knowledge, and help build international expertise.

6TH INTERNATIONAL UNESCO CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL GEOPARKS

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2014

Over 480 delegates from 30 countries participated, including more than 40 Canadians representing the Canadian Committee on Geoparks and regions applying for geopark status.

CCUNESCO advised Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada of the potential development of global geoparks as new UNESCO sites. CCUNESCO recommended emphasizing the importance of being consistent with essential considerations such as existing UNESCO priorities, good governance, keeping costs down, the essential contribution of local communities, and the need for a form of economic development that respects heritage, nature and local cultures. The speech given by Canada's Ambassador to UNESCO, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, during the conference's opening ceremony shared these key messages. CCUNESCO supported a request for UNESCO's patronage for this conference.



UNESCO website

8TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON THE ETHICS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY (COMEST)

QUÉBEC CITY, OCTOBER 1-2, 2014

Canadian scientists and their international counterparts discussed the role of technology in promoting sustainable development and the issues relating to the revision of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers. In doing so, the experts contributed to implementing a line of action of the 37 C/5 to promote COMEST as an international forum of experts. The session was organized by UNESCO and the Québec Commission de l'éthique en science et en technologie. CCUNESCO worked closely with the Québec government and Université Laval in preparing the session.

UNESCO-UNEVOC GLOBAL FORUM

BONN, GERMANY,
OCTOBER 14-16, 2014

The UNEVOC Global Forum is a network of institutions working in the fields of technical and vocational education and training. Two teachers at the Gaspésie et des Îles CEGEP (community college), Daniel Labillois and Pierre-Luc Gagnon, gave a presentation on the community assistance module developed by the *Centre d'initiation à la recherche et d'aide au développement durable*. This interactive platform for knowledge transfer can be used to motivate students, promote entrepreneurial values and search for sustainable development solutions.

Marie-Josée Fortin, Chair of the Education Sectoral Commission and a UNEVOC network representative, also attended the Forum with a view to exploring new cooperation opportunities among network members. The Forum was a good opportunity to showcase Canadian initiatives and share best practices among North American and European countries, particularly with our colleagues from Norway and Germany. A collaborative pilot project will be developed between the Norway and German UNESCO-UNEVOC centres and Colleges and Institutes Canada to adapt the community assistance module for Mozambique.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON REPRESENTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF LIVING TOGETHER IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES: AN OVERVIEW

CÉLAT, QUÉBEC CITY,
NOVEMBER 4-8, 2014

The interdisciplinary discussions held at this international symposium will help to fuel ideas and future actions on how to live together more productively in all of UNESCO's mandated fields. These ideas and actions directly contribute to achieving the objectives of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) and support implementation of CCUNESCO's strategic priorities.

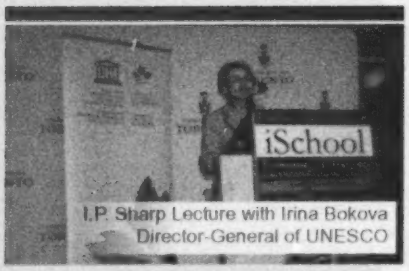
The event, organized by Université Laval's Centre interuniversitaire d'études sur les lettres, les arts et les traditions (CÉLAT) in partnership with CCUNESCO under UNESCO's aegis, brought together universities, decision-makers, researchers and citizens. The lectures and workshops addressed three major themes: political challenges, language, and diversity of experience.

UNESCO-UNEVOC Global Forum, Bonn Germany, 14 to 16 October 2014
Credit: Marie-Josée Fortin

I.P. SHARP LECTURESHIP

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,
NOVEMBER 18, 2014

CCUNESCO promoted the Memory of the World program when UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova visited the University of Toronto for the I.P. Sharp Lectureship. Ms. Bokova's lecture, "Safeguarding the Past, Shaping a Better Future: UNESCO Soft Power in the Digital Age," drew cultural leaders, including representatives of museums, libraries and archives. The Memory of the World program, which was established in 1992, focuses on the preservation of humanity's documentary heritage not only to ensure that people become aware of its importance, but also to facilitate universal access to it.



I.P. Sharp Lecture with Irina Bokova
Director-General of UNESCO

Ms. Bokova pointed out that Memory of the World is not just about documents and books; it is also deeply rooted in human experience. She added that UNESCO's answer to extremism is using "soft power to bolster the foundations for peace and sustainability, through dialogue and cooperation, by strengthening the idea of a single humanity, sharing rights, holding a past and a future in common, by sharing common histories."

"An International Year of Light is a tremendous opportunity to ensure that international policymakers and stakeholders are made aware of the problem-solving potential of light technology. We now have a unique opportunity to raise global awareness of this."

John Dudley, Chairman of the IYL 2015 Steering Committee

- To promote light technologies for improved quality of life in developed and developing world
- To reduce light pollution and energy waste
- To promote women's empowerment in science
- To promote education amongst young people
- To promote sustainable development

CCUNESCO issued a call to actions amongst its members, networks and partners. More than 50 Canadians initiative are showcased on UNESCO international Website unesco.org.

INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF LIGHT
2015

WHY WE DO IT?

THE WORK OF THE CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO IS DRIVEN BY OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

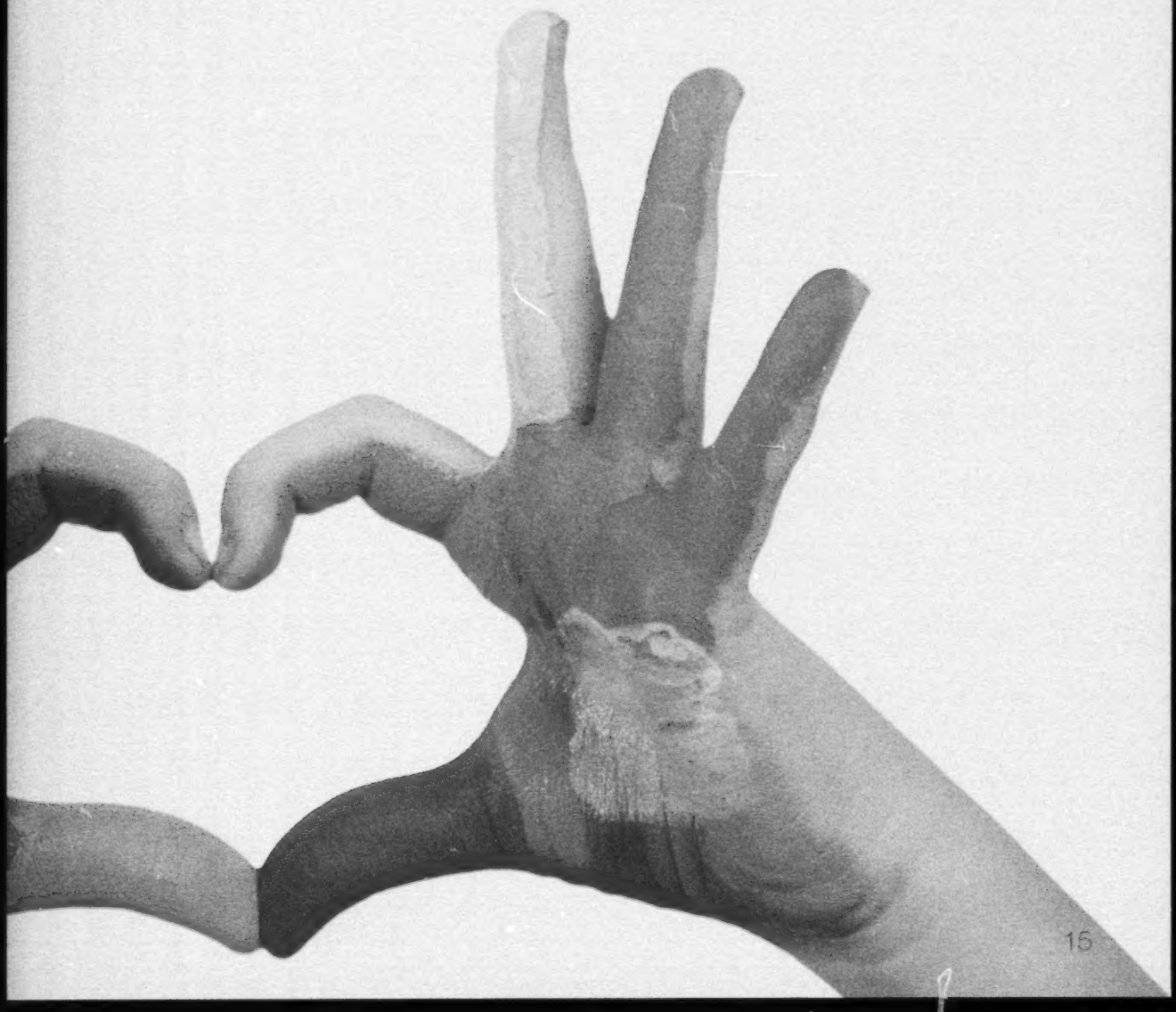
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, DIVERSITY,** CREATIVITY, AND **INNOVATION**

These overarching priorities include values identified in the Canadian Index of Wellbeing[1], as priority values for Canadians. The Canadian Index of Wellbeing is an example of interdependence and an interdisciplinary approach. The index is based on both Statistics Canada data and the concerted efforts of national and international leaders and agencies, community organizations, researchers and experts, including Canada's current Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, and Alex Michalos, a member of CCUNESCO's Sciences Sectoral Commission.

[1] https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/

OUR VALUES

- A global perspective that recognizes the interdependence of all peoples
- Broad-based knowledge and an interdisciplinary approach to addressing issues
- Freedom of expression that respects a diversity of views
- Continuous learning, creativity and innovation in meeting emerging challenges



HOW WE WORK...
OUR NETWORKS

IN EDUCATION!

UNESCO RESEARCH CHAIRS:

CANADA HAS **18** OF THE **661** UNESCO CHAIRS AROUND THE WORLD

- provide an innovative model for international university cooperation and capacity building, particularly for North-South and South-South cooperation
- act as laboratories for ideas and help build bridges between universities, civil society, local communities, researchers and decision-makers
- work with universities to launch programs that advance research in one of UNESCO's program areas

In 2014, CCUNESCO evaluated the governance process for Canada's UNESCO Chairs network. The Commission asked Canadian experts to review proposals for new Chairs in Canada, and four proposals were submitted to UNESCO. The new Chairs will be announced in 2015.

UNESCO'S ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS PROJECT NETWORK IN CANADA:

70 CANADIAN SCHOOLS IN A GLOBAL NETWORK OF 10,000

In 2014, the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) welcomed six new schools:

- Collège Saint-Paul, Varennes, Québec
- École Émile-Nelligan elementary school, Kirkland, Québec
- Calgary French & International School, Calgary, Alberta
- Amis-du-Monde elementary school, Côte-Saint-Luc, Québec
- Le Salésien secondary school, Sherbrooke, Québec
- Cavelier-De LaSalle secondary school, LaSalle, Québec

ASPnet's objective is to promote the idea of world citizenship and quality education. With 10,000 educational institutions in over 180 countries, ASPnet contributes to UNESCO's global objective of pursuing peace in the world and mutual understanding among educational institutions and the communities they serve. In Canada, ASPnet teaches thousands of elementary and secondary school students about concepts like tolerance, equity and the peaceful settlement of disputes to enable them to become creative and responsible global citizens. Coordinated by CCUNESCO, ASPnet has 70 schools in seven Canadian provinces.

ASPnet in Canada is developing a national strategic plan based on the *ASPnet Strategy 2014-2021: Global Network of Schools addressing Global Challenges: Building Global Citizenship and promoting Sustainable Development*. The goal of the plan is to enhance ASPnet's role as a promoter of best practices and to provide it with support by contributing to inclusive, innovative and quality education.

Two Alberta ASPnet schools helped UNESCO's Global Citizenship Education team develop educational materials based on the principles of global citizenship education for elementary and secondary students. The materials were tested by teachers and students in these two schools. The materials will be distributed to all the World Network's member schools in 2015.

IN THE COMMUNITIES!

CANADIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES:

16 OUT OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF 621

In 2014, CCUNESCO coordinated the preparation of a working paper designed to build capacity in Biosphere Reserves and enhance their ability to collaborate with local First Nations. An initial draft that combines academic and Aboriginal perspectives is intended to be a collection of possibilities, challenges and best practices. It was shared with the Biosphere Reserves in order to stimulate engagement and innovation.

CCUNESCO coordinates the process of conducting the reviews of the reserves every 10 years. This review process is an opportunity to make sure that the 16 reserves in Canada still meet the criteria established by the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. These reserves remain committed to mobilizing the main regional sustainable development stakeholders, including industry, researchers, civil society groups and the different levels of government. This year, the Charlevoix review was completed, and the Georgian Bay review begun, with the support of CCUNESCO evaluators who are members and partners: Marc-André Guertin and Geneviève Poirier for the former, and Marie-Pierre Clavette and Brenda Parlee for the latter. The progress reports for six Biosphere Reserves that had previously been assessed as not fully meeting program requirements were also reviewed and commented on by the Canadian Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee to ensure that the Canadian sites remain active. In response to their evaluations, two Canadian Biosphere Reserves changed their governance structures in 2014-15 in order to fulfil their mandate more effectively.

CCUNESCO also facilitated the sharing of best practices among network members to address recurring challenges like zoning, collaborating with indigenous peoples, and constructively handling controversial industrial activities such as maritime oil transportation in ecologically sensitive areas.

Biosphere Reserves are designated areas recognized by UNESCO for their efforts to preserve the health of ecosystems and the wellbeing of human communities. More than two million Canadians live in Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere Reserves are much more than sustainably administered places to live in; they are also social enterprises and recognized as places to learn about sustainable development through dialogue, ideas and information sharing.

CANADIAN COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION:

62 MUNICIPALITIES OUT OF A TOTAL OF **500** AROUND THE WORLD

The Canadian Coalition is part of the International Coalition of Cities against Racism, a network of cities that share their experiences and best practices in order to improve policies to combat racism and discrimination.

In 2014, the Coalition welcomed three new municipalities:

- Belleville, Ontario
- Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
- Terrebonne, Québec

The Canadian Coalition is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2015. Canada's cultural diversity makes the Coalition essential and relevant. To celebrate the anniversary, the Commission has joined forces with the Association for Canadian Studies to prepare a special issue of its quarterly publication Canadian Diversity. Various stakeholders, including the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, the Coalition's member municipalities, and researchers, drew up a plan to combat racism and discrimination at the local level. They also considered issues like gender equality, problems faced by Aboriginal peoples, and the role played by municipal authorities in dealing with these issues. The publication is available on the Commission's website.

Canadian UNESCO Schools students at World Conference on ESD

Photo by: Shelley Kofluk

CANADIAN NETWORK FOR ARTS AND LEARNING'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The conference, organized by the UNESCO Chair for Arts and Learning and Learning through the Arts, attracted more than 100 participants to Toronto on March 25, 2015, including representatives of the Canadian Music Educators' Association, ArtsSmarts and the National Roundtable for Teacher Education in the Arts. Our Secretary-General renewed the Commission's commitment to the promotion of the arts through learning with Larry O'Farrell, the holder of the UNESCO Chair for Arts and Learning, being singled out for his outstanding work in promoting the role of the arts in education and the importance of learning the arts as part of developing viable societies.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

To highlight International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2014, CCUNESCO, Equitas and the Centre for Global Education organized an interactive teleconference for young people in ASPnet schools. About 100 students from across Canada who are part of ASPnet received training on human rights and interacted with trainers. This type of training is designed to deepen students' knowledge on the topic so as to better prepare them to defend human rights in their communities.

CLAYOQUOT SOUND BIOSPHERE RESERVE: A MODEL OF ABORIGINAL CO-MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE

Following CCUNESCO's Annual General Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve organized an excursion in partnership with CCUNESCO from June 7 to 9, 2014. The 24 participants, from the Sectoral Commissions and the Commission's Networks, were given an opportunity to discover and experience the wealth of the culture and heritage of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and the various initiatives of this Biosphere Reserve, which is often cited as an example of best practice because of its Aboriginal co-management model of governance. Representatives in attendance from six other Canadian Biosphere Reserves thus benefitted from an experiential learning opportunity that helps prepare them for their own efforts. The excursion also provided an opportunity for two representatives of the Deline Renewable Resources Council in the Northwest Territories to familiarize themselves with the program in preparation for their application for Biosphere Reserve status.

Participants visiting the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve premises

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations conducted by CCUNESCO are a key part of Strategic Objective 4 in the Strategic Plan. These consultations inform us about the viewpoints of academic experts, non-governmental organizations, and government departments and agencies that work in UNESCO's program areas. The members, including those from the Sectoral Commissions, embody a great deal of expertise and knowledge. They make it possible for CCUNESCO to have an impact on major global issues by being able to comment on and provide advice about UNESCO programs and proposals. Gathering and analyzing comments and suggestions from the individuals and groups informs Canada's position and enhances its contribution to UNESCO. Over the past year, several major consultations were conducted on planned recommendations, UNESCO studies and programs, and the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

CANADA'S THIRD REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE

CCUNESCO contacted federal departments and all the provincial and territorial governments to compile information for inclusion in Canada's third report on measures taken to implement the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace. CCUNESCO received contributions from Canadian Heritage, Industry Canada, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, as well as from the governments of Québec, Newfoundland & Labrador, and Nunavut. Their input shows that Canada has been developing multilingual online content to respond to the needs of its increasingly diverse population. Efforts are also being made to give quality access to the Internet in rural and remote regions.

CCUNESCO'S SECTORAL COMMISSIONS:

- There are three Sectoral Commissions: Education; Natural, Social and Human Sciences; and Culture, Communication and Information.
- The Sectoral Commissions are made up of experts from academia, non-governmental organizations and government departments and agencies working in UNESCO's mandated fields.
- They provide information about developments in their fields and formulate recommendations to the Secretariat and the Executive Committee on UNESCO's programs and activities.

GENDER AND THE MEDIA

The purpose of UNESCO's study on gender and the media was to identify measures taken to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, particularly the objective "Women and the Media." CCUNESCO consulted Status of Women Canada, CBC/Radio-Canada, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. On the basis of the responses received, it would appear that the image and presence of women in Canadian media has improved slightly since the 1995 Beijing Conference.

Progress in the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media has been incremental. There is, however, a greater diversity of women in both information and entertainment programming in Canadian media. Unfortunately, women and girls are still sexually objectified and stereotyped in popular culture, online and in advertising.

INTERNET STUDY

CCUNESCO consulted 15 Canadian experts to obtain their comments on the planned UNESCO study about the Internet in preparation for the conference entitled CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action. Five responses were received on various aspects of the study: media education, freedom of expression, privacy, data encryption, the role of intermediaries, and human rights. These comments were shared with the Canadian government. Most of the points raised by the Canadian experts were included in the final document to be presented for adoption by member states at the next General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015.

Canada convinced UNESCO to add a paragraph about the importance of protecting and promoting public domain access and encouraging the use of open and Creative Commons licensing wherever possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON MUSEUMS AND DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

UNESCO requested comments from Member States on two recommendations concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections and on the preservation of and access to documentary heritage in the digital era. CCUNESCO consulted provincial museum institutions and archivist associations, as well as experts in these fields and members of the Culture, Communication and Information Sectoral Commission. The comments received were shared with the Department of Canadian Heritage, which finalized Canada's contribution. Several of Canada's comments were incorporated into the revised versions of both recommendations.

POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Members of the Sectoral Commissions were consulted about the direction given to future sustainable development goals, particularly on the Canadian government's approach to sustainable development goals. A representative of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada presented the government's vision, and members of the three Sectoral Commissions had an opportunity to comment on it, both at the presentation and later in writing. The members regretted the fact that culture was not a pillar of the sustainable development goals and asked the government representative to inform the minister of their desire to have the Canadian government support and promote this position.

CCUNESCO also encouraged the participation of Canadian experts at several other consultations undertaken by UNESCO by sending out invitations and facilitating discussions with the stakeholders on UNESCO's geoparks, the preliminary Man and the Biosphere Strategy (MAB) 2015-2025, the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers as well as the Recommendation on the Status of the Artist (1980).

GOVERNANCE

54TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

In collaboration with the Royal B.C. Museum and the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, June 5-7, 2014

The AGM theme was "Weaving Together the Aspirations of Canadians" and UNESCO for the Common Good. More than 176 participants representing non-governmental organizations, government departments and agencies, companies and individuals approved CCUNESCO's Strategic Plan 2014-2021, thereby making a commitment to sustainable development, equity and peace building. The AGM:

- generated discussions and stimulated action on the themes of knowledge plurality, the revitalization of Aboriginal languages and culture in Canada, and the common good of humanity.
- connected members of the various CCUNESCO networks and local communities, including Aboriginal communities.
- highlighted the work of CCUNESCO's networks and stakeholders and the way they embody UNESCO's ideals in Canada, thus demonstrating UNESCO's value and relevance to Canadians in a practical way.

THE AGM HAD SOME IMMEDIATE IMPACTS:

- The AGM sparked further efforts to better integrate local communities, in particular, Aboriginal peoples. For example, see the initiatives of some of the Biosphere Reserves in the Canadian network (p. 18).
- The participation of representatives from the Deline Renewable Resources Council of the Northwest Territories at the AGM, and the Tofino excursion, contributed to the development of a proposal for the establishment of a new Biosphere Reserve.
- The members' visit to the Songhees Wellness Centre had a positive impact on the community, including increased use of the Centre.
- Following a motion by the Network of UNESCO Chairs in Canada, a proposal for an Aboriginal Chair was developed.
- Local media covered the AGM, increasing CCUNESCO's visibility, particularly in British Columbia. The discussions and presentations at the AGM generated a great deal of activity on social networks and within the blogosphere.

Youth Advisory Group and from the Songhees community at the 54th AGM

Photo by: Jimmy Ung

FIRST INTERREGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

Astana, Kazakhstan, July 22-24, 2014

This meeting was held in response to the recommendation of the working group on cooperation between the UNESCO Secretariat and the National Commissions for more exchanges between National Commissions, field offices and UNESCO. Representatives from 115 countries from every part of the world participated. This new meeting format was developed by CCUNESCO under the leadership of Past President Axel Meisen, in collaboration with the CCUNESCO Secretariat and the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO.

The UNESCO Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, Éric Falt, referred several times in his introductory remarks to CCUNESCO's contribution to the establishment of this new meeting format and thanked Canada. He reminded those present that UNESCO no longer had the financial means to hold regional meetings. This new format appeared to meet the requirements of both the National Commissions and UNESCO.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- The National Commissions decided to collaborate to find a method of demonstrating UNESCO's values at the national level. CCUNESCO initiated a research project aiming at defining indicators to demonstrate the qualitative value of UNESCO's programs in Canada.
- The National Commissions decided to exchange best practices in order to build capacity.
- Recognition of the need for closer collaboration between UNESCO National Commissions and field offices.

MOVING FORWARD

In its 2014-2021 Strategic Plan, CCUNESCO committed to developing a results-based performance management framework and to equip themselves with effective reporting mechanisms. This step will help to assess the impact of CCUNESCO's programs and activities by using rigorous performance indicators. The framework, still being developed, will be in place in 2016-2017.

A review of statutes and regulations has been undertaken as a follow-up to the recommendations contained in the audit report released last year. This review is aimed at ensuring transparency, sound management, a clarified definition of roles and responsibilities, and an alignment of CCUNESCO programs with the Canada Council for the Arts' revised programs.

Appendices

Executive Committee

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Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Ms. Danika Billie Littlechild
Vice-President
Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Dr. Axel Meisen
Past-President, Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Ms. Louise Filiatrault
Secretary-General
Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Mr. Simon Brault
Director and CEO
Canada Council for the Arts

Ms. Barbara Burley
Board Member
Canada Council for the Arts

Mr. Claude Allard
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Department of Health, Government of New Brunswick

Mr. Jean-Marc Blais
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Maggie Buttrum
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Program Officer
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Mathias Bizimana
Program Officer
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Pauline Dugré
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Roseann O'Reilly Runte
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Michèle Stanton-Jean
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Canadians who have made a significant contribution to the work of UNESCO

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